

APR 13 1961

With Kennedys as Guests

They Scooped Rest of the Press

By Dorothy McCardle

FRIENDS of President and Mrs. Kennedy have entered into a protective conspiracy to preserve some shreds of privacy for the informal, unofficial social life of the First Family.

Two such friends gave dinner parties recently in their homes where Mrs. McCardle, The Man Who Came to Dinner was the President of the United States. He was accompanied by the First Lady. And the public wasn't told.

These two hostesses, who both refuse to discuss their parties even at this late

date, are wives of members of the Fourth Estate—Mrs. Ben Bradlee, whose husband is assistant manager of the Washington Bureau of Newsweek Magazine, and Mrs. Arthur Krock, wife of the distinguished New York Times correspondent.

The Bradlees' party some time ago was at their Georgetown home on N st., the street where the Kennedys lived before they moved to the White House. It was a small and intimate party, with the foursome enlarged to a half dozen by the R. Sargent Shriver.

The party at the Krock home on 24th st. was last Monday night. There were 18 at a beautifully seated dinner. Dress was informal. Mrs. Kennedy looked charming in a short, sleeveless black and green print, worn with green bead jewelry.

UNLIKE most hostesses of the past who wanted the world to know when the President of the United States broke bread in their homes, mum is the word with both Mrs. Bradlee and Mrs. Krock.

"I have not a word to say about it," said Mrs. Bradlee.

"I pledged all my guests to secrecy, and I have no comment," said Mrs. Krock. But word gets around just the same.

Mrs. Krock issued her invitations by phone.

This is the way she is reported to have phrased them:

"We are very much honored that the President and Mrs. Kennedy have consented to have dinner with us in a week or so. Can you and your husband come, too that night? But, my dear, I must set one condition. No one is to breathe a word about the party. We want them to be able to relax,

without reporters and photographers who follow them about in their official life."

The guests who took the pledge of silence were all longtime friends of the Kennedys . . . Mr. and Mrs. Clark Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Lanahan, Mr. and Mrs. George Y. Wheeler II, Mr. and Mrs. Walter T. Ridder, Mrs. B. Lauriston Hardin, Viscount Hood, the British Minister; John J. McCloy, the President's Disarmament Chief, and Mrs. Raymond Guest.

EVERYONE PRESENT was determined to make the evening a gay one. But it took the Krocks' household pet, a handsome golden Labrador retriever by the name of Jason to really break the ice and set off the party in gales of laughter.

Friendly Jason made his rounds paying canine respects, especially among the ladies.